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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRALIA.

Rules applicable to vessels carrying grain, which arrive at Sydney, New South Wales, from California.

[Sent by P. A. Surg. H. S. Cumming.]

1. Vessels which have not lain alongside at San Francisco wharves, which have not taken on board fodder or grain which has passed through San Francisco, will be allowed to discharge alongside at Sydney, provided they are moored with the precaution specified in the regulations in force under the wharfage and tonnage rates act of June 19, 1902.

2. Vessels which have lain alongside at San Francisco wharves, and have afterwards proceeded to load grain at Vallejo, will be allowed to discharge alongside at Sydney, provided—

(a) They have been fumigated with sulphur after hauling off at San Francisco and all rats have been destroyed.

(b) They have not afterwards lain alongside San Francisco wharves before arriving at Sydney.

(c) They have not taken on board fodder or grain which has passed through San Francisco.

(d) They are moored at Sydney with the precautions specified in the regulations made under the wharfage and tonnage rates act of June 19, 1902.

3. The evidence of the fumigation referred to shall consist in a certificate given by the British consul of San Francisco, and shall be in the following form:

I (name), His British Majesty's consul-general at San Francisco, hereby certify that the (name of vessel), after lying alongside at San Francisco, hauled off into the stream and was there fumigated in all parts by the burning of sulphur in the proportion of not less than 3 pounds of sulphur to every 1,000 cubic feet of air space, and that all parts were kept closed so as to be exposed to the fumes for not less than twelve hours before being opened up for ventilation (or was fumigated with a Clayton fumigator, and was exposed in all parts to the fumes for six hours before being opened up for ventilation).

4. Evidence as to the place of loading will be taken from the log.

5. Owners or agents shall give an undertaking to faithfully carry out the regulations under the wharfage and tonnage rates act of June 19, 1902, as long as any vessel lies alongside at Sydney, and to pay the wages of any person employed by the board to see that the regulations are duly observed, if called upon to do so.

A copy of the regulations referred to is attached.

BARBADOS.

Smallpox situation.

Consul MacAllister reports, January 13, as follows: There are now only 15 cases of smallpox in Barbados. An occasional new case occurs,

but the prospects are good that the disease will soon entirely disappear, and that the very rigorous and oppressive quarantine enforced against Barbados by near-by ports will be taken off.

The ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

BRAZIL.

Mortality statistics of Bahia.

Consul Furniss reports, January 5 and January 12, as follows: For the week ended January 3, 1903, there were reported 75 deaths in the city of Bahia: Aneurism, 2; arterio-sclerosis, 4; beriberi, 2; bronchitis, 2; cancer, 1; cirrhosis of liver, 3; diarrhea, 1; eclampsia, 2; enteritis, 2; malarial fevers, 3; gastritis, 3; hepatitis, 2; senile debility, 1; stillborn, 5; pneumonia, 2; tetanus, 4; tuberculosis, 10; diseases of circulatory system, 3; other causes, 24.

For the week ended January 10, 1903, there were reported 70 burials in the cemeteries of Bahia City, as follows: Arterio-sclerosis, 2; beriberi, 3; bronchitis, 3; diarrhea, 1; eclampsia, 2; enteritis, 2; malarial fevers, 3; gastritis, 5; hepatitis, 4; meningitis, 2; senile debility, 1; nephritis, 2; stillborn, 7; pneumonia, 2; tetanus, infantile, 2; tuberculosis, 9; other causes, 20.

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

CANADA.

Inspection of immigrants at St. John, New Brunswick.

Assistant Surgeon Billings reports for the week ended January 24, 1903, as follows: Immigrants inspected, 263; passed, 243; detained, 20.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

CHINA.

Report from Hongkong—Inspection of vessels—Destruction of plague-infected rats.

P. A. Surg. John McMullen reports, December 27, 1902, as follows: During the week ended December 20, 1902, 12 vessels were inspected, 86 steerage passengers and 586 crews were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 752 pieces of baggage were disinfected. One case of plague and 1 of smallpox (Chinese) occurred during the week, both of which ended fatally. Two cases of diphtheria and 1 of puerperal fever were the other communicable diseases reported for the week.

A large number of rats are killed each week under the direction of the local health authorities, and, according to the medical officer of health, about 7 per cent of these are plague infected. All rats brought to the authorities are carefully examined by the city bacteriologist.

The medical officer of health informs me that formerly these rats were caught and brought in by anyone, but this has been discontinued, for the reason that about 75 per cent of the Chinese engaged in this work died of plague. The city now has a regular force of rat catchers who have been immunized with Haffkine serum and no deaths have occurred from plague among these.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.